

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 are in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 5 are amended.

The rejection of claims 1 - 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b as being anticipated by Baldwin; 6,807,036 is traversed.

A circuit interrupting device, such as a GFCI receptacle normally has a line side, which is connectable to an electrical power supply, and a load side, which is connectable to one or more loads and at least one conductive path between the line and load sides. In addition to the line and load side connections, the GFCI has a user accessible load side connection. The user accessible load side connection allows a user to externally connect a load to electrical power supplied from the line side. Normally, the line and load side connections are binding screws and the user accessible load side connection is a receptacle for receiving the blades of a plug.

Circuit interrupting devices are connected to external wiring so that line wires are connected to the line side connection and load side wires are connected to the load side connection. These connections cannot be reversed

However, instances do occur where the circuit interrupting device is improperly connected to the external wires so that the load wires are connected to the line side connection and the line wires are connected to the load connection. This is known as reverse wiring.

In the event that the circuit interrupting device is reverse wired, fault protection to the user accessible load connection may be eliminated and the circuit interrupting device may not operate.

With our invention, the circuit interrupting device can never be reversed wired because the source of power can be connected to either the line terminals or the load terminals; and the remaining unconnected terminals, whether they are the line terminals or the load terminals, can then be connected to the load.

Baldwin discloses a fault interrupter which can be reversed wired, and when it is reversed wired it will not operate. See Paragraph 5, lines 45 - 51 where Baldwin

specifically states that his device must be properly wired or it will not operate. In paragraph 5, lines 51 - 59, Baldwin describes in detail why his electronics can not receive any power and, therefore, is inoperative when it is reversed wired. Thus, with Baldwin, if the source of power is connected to the load terminals instead of the line terminals, his device is reversed wired and can not work.

Baldwin does not disclose or suggest doing what we disclose and claim as our invention, that being that the source of power can be connected to either the line terminals or the load terminals, and still operate. As noted above, our device cannot be reversed wired.

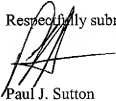
Claim 1 is amended to more positively define our invention to more clearly avoid the art of record. Claim 1 now recites the structure of a circuit interrupting device having a user accessible load side connection in combination with a first pair of terminals which can be connected to either a source of power or a load, and a second pair of terminals which can then be connected to the remaining circuit regardless of whether the remaining circuit is the source of power or the load. Baldwin neither discloses nor even suggests structure that can do this.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim and claims 2 - 14 depend from claim 1 in varying degrees of scope. It is our understanding that all of the claims now present in the application avoid the art of record and, therefore, are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for the amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561 of Greenberg Traurig, LLP..

In the event that an extension of time is required to make this amendment timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this amendment timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit an overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561 of Greenberg Traurig, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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